

See

## Yosemite Today

for a complete calendar of what's happening in the park.

# Yosemite Guide



*Your Key to Visiting the Park*

**WINTER/SPRING 2002-2003**

**25¢**

VOLUME XXXII, NO. 2



## The Falls in Four Seasons

By Karen Sorensen

Yosemite Falls. No single feature has contributed more to the wide acclaim of Yosemite National Park. The beauty and power of this waterfall—the world's fifth tallest—are unrivaled in the United States, and its allure spans the globe. No matter what the season, Yosemite Falls inspires all who view it.

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Photo courtesy of Scot Miller © www.suntoomoon.com

*This noble fall has far the richest, as well as the most powerful voice of all the falls of the Valley.*

—John Muir



# YOSEMITE GUIDE

Your Key to Visiting the Park

WINTER / SPRING 2002 - 2003  
VOLUME XXXII, NO. 2

## The Falls in Four Seasons

Continued from front cover

Just like other components of nature, Yosemite Falls is highly affected by the seasons. The waterfall is at its height in spring and early summer, when melting winter snow collected along the high country path of Yosemite Creek forms a torrent of water that plunges over the cliffs into the Valley. The avalanche of water fills the rock basin with spray and consequent wind. Rainbows appear and disappear, and the thundering sound of the Falls reverberates in the Valley and rattles windows at Yosemite Lodge.

By late summer, Yosemite Falls becomes a mere trickle, and often dries up entirely by autumn when the nearby oaks, dogwoods and maple trees are awash in vibrant color.



Yosemite Falls makes three distinct plunges before reaching the Valley floor: the 1,430 foot Upper Fall, an intermediate 675 foot chain of cascades, and the 320 foot Lower Fall.

In winter, a completely different phenomenon occurs at Yosemite Falls. "Every clear, frosty morning loud sounds are heard booming and reverberating from side to side of the Valley," wrote Yosemite's famous naturalist, John Muir. "The strange thunder is made by the fall of sections of ice formed of spray that is frozen on the face of the cliff along the sides of the Upper Yosemite Fall . . . This frozen spray gives rise to one of the most interesting winter features of the Valley—a cone of ice at the foot of the fall, four or five hundred feet high." (See photo, back panel)

In official records, the maximum height of the cone is documented at 322 feet, about as tall as a 25-story building. When temperatures warm in early spring, the water from the Upper Fall begins to drill a hole at the top of the cone, creating a volcano-like structure, and by mid-April, most of the cone has melted.

Another winter occurrence in and around Yosemite Falls is "frazil ice," a substance that forms in waterfalls and creeks when water becomes super cooled. Turbulence cools the water so that ice crystals form and group into spongy masses, which sometimes overflow the creek bed. In Yosemite Creek, frazil ice has frequently covered trails and damaged bridges, and has even flowed through buildings that once bordered the creek. In 1997, frazil ice was above the railings of the Lower Yosemite Fall bridge, almost completely burying it!




In autumn, Upper Yosemite Fall slows to a trickle—and often dries up completely. The Lost Arrow Spire is visible just above the golden big leaf maple.

Throughout most of the year, the beauty of Yosemite Falls is no less breathtaking. But the influence of this waterfall stretches well beyond its immediate impact on viewers. The grandeur of Yosemite Falls played a primary role in motivating key individuals to call for the preservation of natural wonders, rather than exploitation of them. It was this call that led President Abraham Lincoln to set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees in 1864 for permanent protection and the enjoyment of the public. The establishment of national parks was not far behind.

The beauty and influence of Yosemite

Falls cannot be overestimated. From American Indians and pioneers, to scientists and artists, to millions of annual visitors, Yosemite Falls has inspired all who make the pilgrimage to see this icon of America.

 Karen Sorensen is the publications manager for The Yosemite Fund. Her article first appeared in The Yosemite Fund's periodic magazine, Approach.

### IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS

Today, the National Park Service and The Yosemite Fund are currently working in partnership to rehabilitate the degraded area at the base of Lower Yosemite Fall. The overarching goal of this project is to provide Yosemite visitors with a deeper and more personal experience of the outstanding natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Yosemite Falls area.

To learn more about these improvements, see the display at the project site or visit online [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning).

This major effort requires an unprecedented amount of resources. The public is encouraged to contribute donations. To help, contact The Yosemite Fund at 415/434-1782 or visit [www.yosemitefund.org](http://www.yosemitefund.org).

### HOW DO I GET TO YOSEMITE FALLS?

- Lower Yosemite Fall can be reached by a short, easy trail. Shuttle bus stop #6.
- Upper Yosemite Fall and views of the cascades require a strenuous 7.2-mile round-trip hike. The trailhead is located behind Camp 4, near shuttle bus stop #7.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Yosemite!

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but just a glimpse of Yosemite Falls can render one speechless. About 150 years ago, the world learned of Yosemite through a sketch by Thomas Ayers (see page 2).

This image communicated the majesty of the west to countless Americans during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was in the plunging spray and the fall's comets of water that the world took notice and a nation recognized the need to preserve its natural treasures for future generations.

As you look up at Yosemite Falls, consider that there are over 43 square miles of wilderness that must be protected in order to produce this amazing waterfall. Yosemite's wonders extend far beyond the

Valley. It is up to each of us to protect what we can't see as much as what we can in order to preserve this beautiful park.

Naturally, I hope you take away from your Yosemite visit a sense of awe at the spectacular beauty of this place. Whether you hike to the top of Upper Yosemite Fall or feel the spray at the Lower Yosemite Fall bridge, I invite you to make your own lasting connections here. Yosemite is just one place where we can marvel at our America and the heritage that we keep in our national parks.

Sincerely,

David A. Mihalic  
Superintendent

### YOSEMITE GUIDE

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# THE CHANGING SEASONS

## Special Protection for Special Places

*Visitors to Yosemite are the park's most important guardians. With over 3.5 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well protected these park resources could be!*

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either intentionally or unknowingly harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into sensitive meadows
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and contact the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

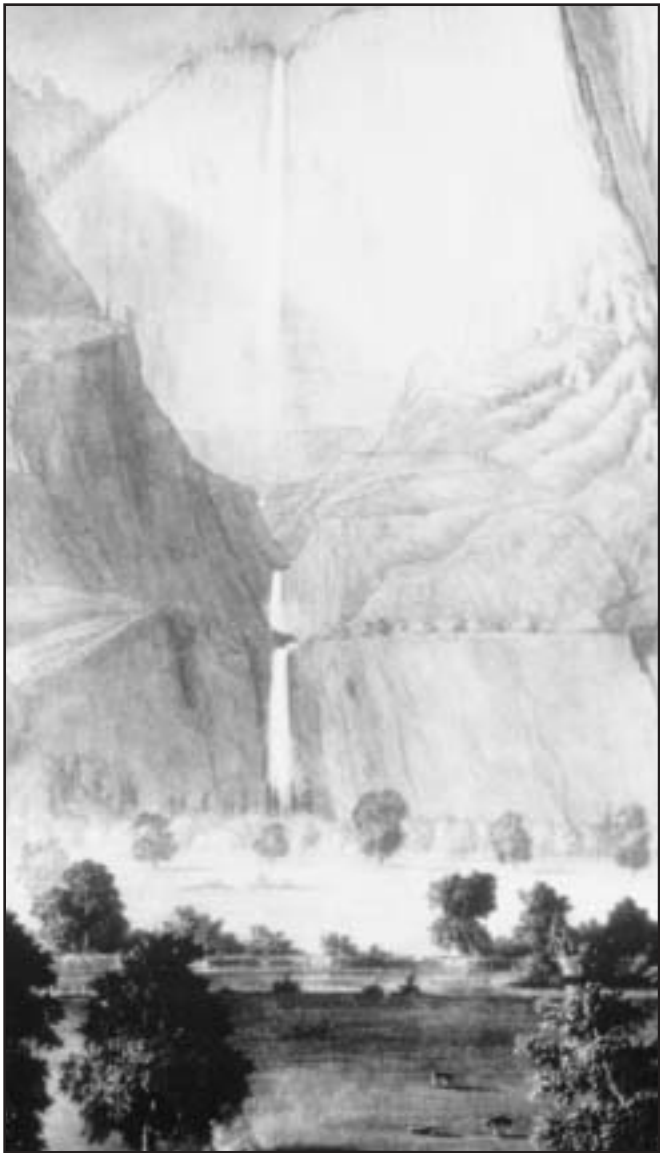
### Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. In Yosemite, pets have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas, on roads, and paved trails. They are not allowed on other trails or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash or otherwise physically restrained and should never be left unattended (dog kennel available at Yosemite Valley stable, spring through fall; see page 7).
- For the courtesy of other visitors, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...

- Food storage guidelines, see this page.
- Camping and campfires, see page 3.
- Bicycling rules, see page 5.
- Yosemite Valley day hikes, see page 6.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 6.



This Thomas Ayers drawing of Yosemite Falls gave the world its first glimpse of Yosemite in 1856.

Photo courtesy of Yosemite Museum

## WINTER/SPRING TRIP PLANNING

When planning a trip to Yosemite, keep in mind the changing seasons. The timing of your visit will determine the amount of clothing to bring, the availability of different campgrounds and parking lots, and the need for tire chains. Call road and weather information (209/372-0200) before you leave home. Here are some general guidelines:

### ROADS

The Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) and Glacier Point Road beyond Badger Pass Ski Area are closed each year from late fall through spring. These roads generally close for the season with the first major snowstorm after November 1 and re-open by late May or early June, conditions permitting. The road to the Mariposa Grove is also closed in winter.

### WILL I NEED TIRE CHAINS?

It is recommended that you carry tire chains in your vehicle (including rental and 4-wheel drive vehicles) between November and April, as a sudden storm could make them mandatory at any time. Under state regulations, any vehicle entering a signed chain

control area must carry chains, even if their use is not mandatory at the time. Chains should be obtained in advance; several towns on highways leading into Yosemite rent them. Vehicles over 6,000 lbs. are required to use link-type chains; on sets of dual tires, only one tire needs chains. Once in the park, tire chains are available at retail outlets for purchase, but not for rent.

### TEMPERATURE

Weather in Yosemite can change rapidly during all seasons of the year. Since areas in the park range from 2,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the lower foothills can be experiencing spring while the higher elevations remain in the grip of winter.

### SNOW PLAY SAFETY

Each year sleds, toboggans, innertubes, saucers, and other sliding devices cause more injuries, on the average, than any other winter activity. Please slide safely. Sledding is not allowed in the Badger Pass area. However “snow tubing” rental and a maintained trail are now available at the Badger Pass Lodge.

## BEARS IN WINTER AND SPRING

Did you know that black bears do not truly hibernate in winter in the same way other hibernating mammals do? Rather, they descend into a deep sleep, frequently awakening and occasionally wandering around. Because of this, it's not only important—but also required by federal regulation—that you keep your food stored properly, even during winter.

### KEEP BEARS WILD AND YOUR PROPERTY SAFE

Bears are attracted to many things you might not think of as food. So, always store any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes canned foods, sealed bottles, drinks, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Each campsite in the park has food storage lockers measuring approximately 33”x 45”x 18.”

- Never leave your food or scented items in your vehicle after dark.

- In **campgrounds and tent-cabin areas** you must store food and scented items in food storage lockers, day and night.
- In **hotel rooms and hard-sided cabins**, store items inside rooms (be sure to keep the windows closed if you leave).
- In **picnic areas and on the trail**, be sure to stay with food and scented items at all times.
- If you are **backpacking**, it is *strongly* recommended that you use a bear canister (they are required in some areas). Inquire about food storage requirements when you get your wilderness permit.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR

Never approach a bear, regardless of its size. If you encounter a bear in a developed area of the park or on a hiking trail, act immediately: yell or bang pots together. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear (allow the bear a way to run away). If this is

unsuccessful, throw small stones or sticks toward the bear from a safe distance; the intent is to scare the bear, not to injure it. Use caution if you see cubs, as a mother may act aggressively to defend them. Never try to retrieve anything once a bear has it. When done immediately, these actions have been successful in scaring bears away. Report all bear incidents and sightings to a park ranger. You can also call the Save-a-Bear Hotline to report bear sightings and incidents, as well as trash and food storage problems: 209/372-0322.

**NOTE:** These regulations and precautions help decrease your chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when you follow all the guidelines. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in a citation and/or impoundment of property.

## DRIVE SAFELY

California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children under six years of age (or under 60 lbs.) be restrained in an approved child safety seat.

In winter and early spring, road conditions can change suddenly. Wet asphalt may be slippery or icy, especially in shady spots or on bridges. Keep speed down and allow extra distance from the vehicle in front of you.

Water from melted roadside snow often freezes on road surfaces, creating treacherous “black ice.” This can occur even when the weather appears dry and fair.

Anticipate snowplows as they may be working just around the next curve. Wait for a signal from the plow driver before passing.

Don't drink and drive. It's a fatal combination.

## KEEP YOSEMITE'S WATER CLEAN

- To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for 5 minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash dishes, bathe, camp, and bury human waste (6” deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

# CAMPING

## CAMPING RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required year-round for Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served.

Camping reservations are available up to five months in advance, beginning on the 15th of each month.

DATE TO CALL	FOR ARRIVAL DATES THROUGH:
January 15	June 14
February 15	July 14
March 15	August 14
April 15	September 14
May 15	October 14
June 15	November 14
July 15	December 14
August 15	January 14
September 15	February 14
October 15	March 14
November 15	April 14
December 15	May 14

From May through September, campsites are in heavy demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call NPRS as early as possible in the period.

Reservations can be made by phone, mail, or online. All requests are processed at the same time, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time, beginning on the 15th of each month. Written requests should include desired location, type of equipment you will be camping in (i.e., tent, RV, etc.), as well as method of payment. Written requests will be accepted 2 weeks prior to—but will not be processed until—the 15th.

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, **May 1-September 15, the camping limit in Yosemite is 14 days, and only 7 of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.** Campers may request a specific campsite number if it is available at the time the reservation is made. **All campsite assignments are final**—you may not switch or change campsites after you arrive in the park. **Maximum length for recre-**

ational vehicles in Valley campgrounds is 40 feet.

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are rented on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of the number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9:00 a.m. each day May through September.

## CAMPING IN AREAS SURROUNDING YOSEMITE

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. **For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices:** **Highway 120 West**, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/962-7825; **Highway 140**, Mariposa Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638; **Highway 120 East**, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF) 760/647-3044; **Highway 41**, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 4.

## GROUP CAMPGROUNDS

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made through NPRS; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets and generators are not permitted in group sites.

## SERVICES

■ All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food storage locker (33"dx 45"w x 18"h). See *Bears in Winter and Spring* on page 2 for food storage regulations.

■ Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only.

■ Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; showers are also available at Tuolumne Meadows (summer only) during limited hours. See *Yosemite Today* for locations and hours of service.

■ Wheelchair accessible sites are available at Lower Pines Campground (sites #3, #5, and #14) and are equipped with a power receptacle for charging electric wheelchairs. There are two wheelchair accessible sites at Wawona Campground.

■ RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

## REGULATIONS

■ Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.

■ A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.

■ Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

■ Generators may be used **sparingly** between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

■ Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

### CAMPFIRES

■ In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley during peak visitation months, campfires are only permitted May 1 through October 15 between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. There are no restrictions in effect in Yosemite Valley during the remainder of the year.

■ Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes “dead and down” wood.

■ Please start campfires with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.



The Indians of Yosemite—the Ahwahneechee—called this *Chó-lok*, meaning “the Fall.”

## NATIONAL PARK RESERVATION SYSTEM

Reservations may be made from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.

**TOLL-FREE RESERVATIONS:**  
800/436-7275

**ONLINE RESERVATIONS:**  
*reservations.nps.gov*

You may reserve only one campsite at a time.

**INTERNATIONAL CALLERS:**  
301/722-1257

**TDD (TOLL-FREE):**  
888/530-9796

**MAIL-IN RESERVATIONS:**  
NPRS  
P.O. Box 1600  
Cumberland, MD 21502

Up to two campsites may be reserved at a time by mail or phone with Mastercard, Visa, Discover, personal check, or money order. For more information, call the park campgrounds office at 209/372-8502 or visit online ([www.nps.gov/yose/trip/camping.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/camping.htm)).

## CAMPGROUNDS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

	CAMPGROUND	ELEVATION	MILES FROM YOSEMITE VALLEY	NUMBER OF SITES/ SPACES	DAILY FEE*	TAP WATER	STREAM WATER (BOIL)	PETS ALLOWED (MUST BE ATTENDED)	GROCERIES NEARBY	STOCK CAMP	NOTES**
IN YOSEMITE VALLEY	<b>NORTH PINES</b>	4,000'/1,200m	0	81	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open April-September <i>Reservations required</i>
	<b>UPPER PINES</b>	4,000'/1,200m	0	238	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open All Year <i>Reservations required</i>
	<b>LOWER PINES</b> ↳ sites #3, #5, #14	4,000'/1,200m	0	60	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open March-October <i>Reservations required</i>
	<b>CAMP 4 WALK-IN</b>	4,000'/1,200m	0	35	\$5/p	●			●		Open All Year/Walk-In <i>First-come, first-served. Limited parking</i>
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY	<b>WAWONA</b> Wawona Road (Highway 41) near Wawona; ↳ 2 sites	4,000'/1,200m	27	93	\$18/s	●		●	●	●	Open All Year <i>Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12)</i>
	<b>BRIDALVEIL CREEK</b> Glacier Point Road	7,200'/2,194m	25	110	\$12/s	●		●		●	Open July-early September <i>First-come, first-served</i>
	<b>HODGDON MEADOW</b> Big Oak Flat Road (Hwy. 120 West near the Big Oak Flat Entrance)	4,872'/1,484m	25	105	\$18/s	●		●			Open All Year <i>Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12)</i> <i>Group camp closed in winter</i>
	<b>CRANE FLAT</b> Big Oak Flat Road, near the Tioga Road turnoff	6,191'/1,886m	17	166	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open June-September <i>Reservations required</i>
	<b>TAMARACK FLAT</b> Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	6,315'/1,924m	23	52	\$8/s		●				Open June-early September <i>Three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or trailers. First-come, first-served</i>
	<b>WHITE WOLF</b> Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,000'/2,437m	31	74	\$12/s	●		●			Open July-early September <i>First-come, first-served</i> <i>Not suitable for RVs over 27'</i>
	<b>YOSEMITE CREEK</b> Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	7,659'/2,333m	35	40	\$8/s		●	●			Open July-early September <i>Five-mile access road not suitable for RVs over 24' or trailers. First-come, first-served</i>
	<b>PORCUPINE FLAT</b> Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,100'/2,468m	38	52	\$8/s		●				Open July-September <i>RV access front section only</i> <i>First-come, first-served</i>
	<b>TUOLUMNE MEADOWS</b> Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,600'/2,620m	55	304	\$18/s	●		●	●	●	Open July-September <i>½ advanced reservations, ½ same-day reservations</i>

\*/s = per site  
/p = per person

\*\*Dates approximate



## What is the best way to visit Yosemite?

Your experience in Yosemite depends on the time you have available and your interests. Many fine maps and books are sold in visitor centers and park stores to help plan your visit. Publications such as *Yosemite's Official Park Handbook*, published by the National Park Service, or *The Yosemite Road Guide* are available at visitor centers, gift shops, or by mail from the Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, or [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).

Remember that road and trail conditions and available services may change with the weather. **For current conditions and general information, call 209/372-0200.**

## TRANSPORTATION

### To and From Yosemite

THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (YARTS) offers park visitors an alternative to driving their car into Yosemite by providing transit service throughout the region. This new voluntary bus service provides scheduled round-trip transportation to Yosemite from the outlying communities. Expanded summer service is offered mid-May to mid-September. Daily service from Mammoth Lakes runs in July and August. For schedule and more information visit the YARTS web site at [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com) or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787) or 209/388-9589.

### Within Yosemite

Free shuttle bus service is provided throughout the eastern portion of **Yosemite Valley** year-round. In summer, free shuttle buses run from **Wawona** to the **Mariposa Grove**, and from **Tioga Pass** to **Tenaya Lake**. Hikers' buses run daily to **Glacier Point** late spring through autumn and between **Tuolumne Meadows** and **Yosemite Valley** late June through Labor Day. Call 209/372-1240 for hikers' bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

## PARK LODGING (AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND)

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/252-4848, by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Concession Services, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727, or by visiting [www.yosemitedpark.com](http://www.yosemitedpark.com). Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes the following:

### YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Lodge	Year-Round
The Ahwahnee	
Curry Village (cabins & tent cabins)	Year-Round (weekends only in winter)
Housekeeping Camp	Spring-Fall
<b>OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY</b>	
Wawona Hotel	Year-Round (weekends only in February & March 2003)
Tent cabins at: Tuolumne Meadows Lodge White Wolf Lodge	Summer-Early Fall

Rates range from \$54 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to \$366 per night for a room at The Ahwahnee (rates are subject to change). Reservations are highly recommended and may be made up to one year and one day in advance.

## 1 YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. Many activities and services are available in Yosemite Valley. Detailed information is available at the Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See the shuttle bus map and scheduled Valley activities in *Yosemite Today*.

## 2 MARIPOSA GROVE AND WAWONA

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), 2 miles from the park's South Entrance Station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed in winter. Activities include hiking, ranger-led walks, and tram tours of the Grove (weather permitting) late spring through fall. Trail brochures printed in English, French, Japanese, and Spanish are available at the Grove trailhead. **To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle bus (spring through fall) from Wawona to the Grove. Trailers are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road, and vehicles 23 feet and longer are restricted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.**

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour of the Center year-round. See *Yosemite Today* for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove.

## 3 GLACIER POINT

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (a 1-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The view from Glacier Point provides an opportunity to see the Valley from its rim. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41) 14 miles to the Chinquapin junction, then turn left onto the Glacier Point Road. The road ends at Glacier Point. The Glacier Point Road is generally open from late spring through late fall. In winter, the road is plowed only as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via skis or snowshoes only. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule of activities.

## INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK

**Highway 120 West**  
Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 1263  
Hotel Charlotte, Suite B  
Groveland, CA 95321  
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

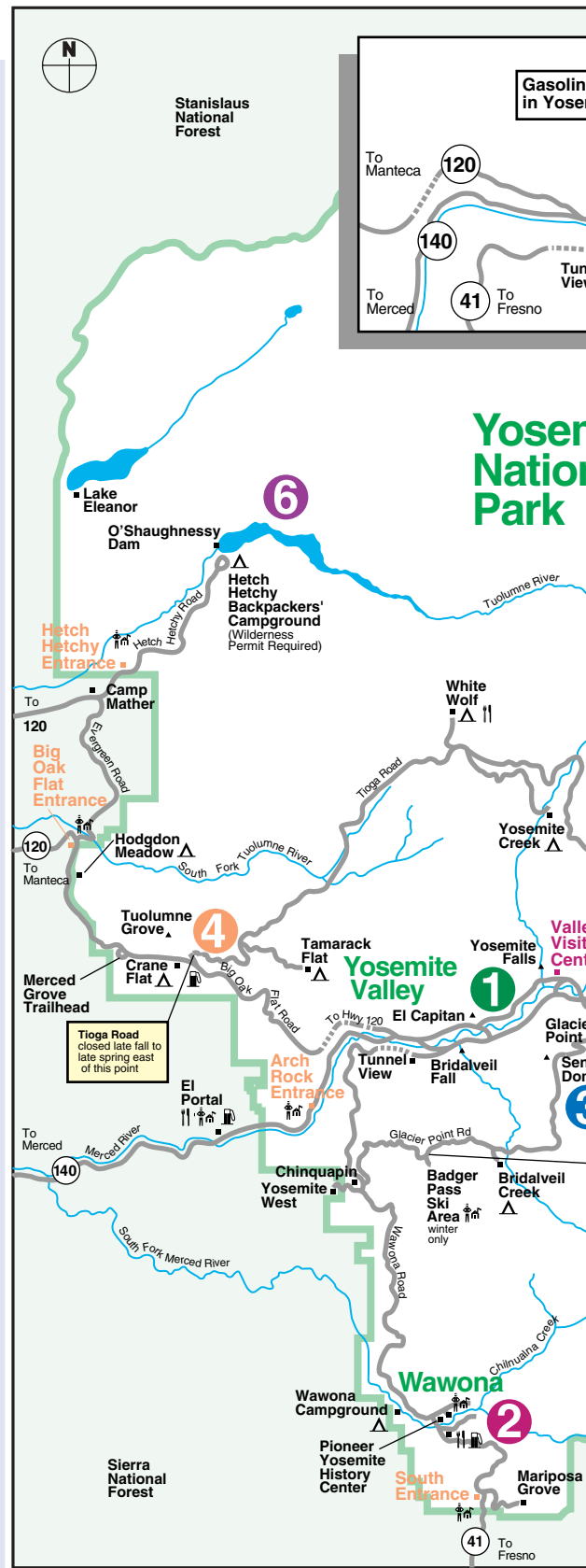
**Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau**  
P.O. Box 4020  
542 Stockton Road  
Sonora, CA 95370  
800/446-1333 or 209/533-4420  
[www.thegreatunfenced.com](http://www.thegreatunfenced.com)

**Highway 41**  
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau  
40637 Highway 41  
Oakhurst, CA 93644  
559/683-4636  
[www.sierranet.net/~ysvb](http://www.sierranet.net/~ysvb)

**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
P.O. Box 333  
5007 Main Street  
Coulterville, CA 95311  
209/878-3074  
[mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor](http://mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor)

**Highway 140/49**  
Mariposa County Visitor Bureau  
(also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)  
P.O. Box 967  
5158 Highway 140  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
800/208-2434 or 209/966-2456  
[www.homeofyosemite.com](http://www.homeofyosemite.com)

## AREAS TO VISIT IN Y



**Highway 120 East**  
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center  
P.O. Box 130  
Highway 395 and 3rd Street  
Lee Vining, CA 93541  
760/647-6629  
[www.leevining.com](http://www.leevining.com)

**California Welcome Center, Merced**  
710 W. 16th Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791  
[www.yosemite-gateway.org](http://www.yosemite-gateway.org)

## PARK VISITOR CENTERS

The four visitor centers in Yosemite National Park are excellent resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and handouts. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation and more information.

### YOSEMITE VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Open daily all year.

### BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

### WAWONA INFORMATION STATION AT HILL'S STUDIO

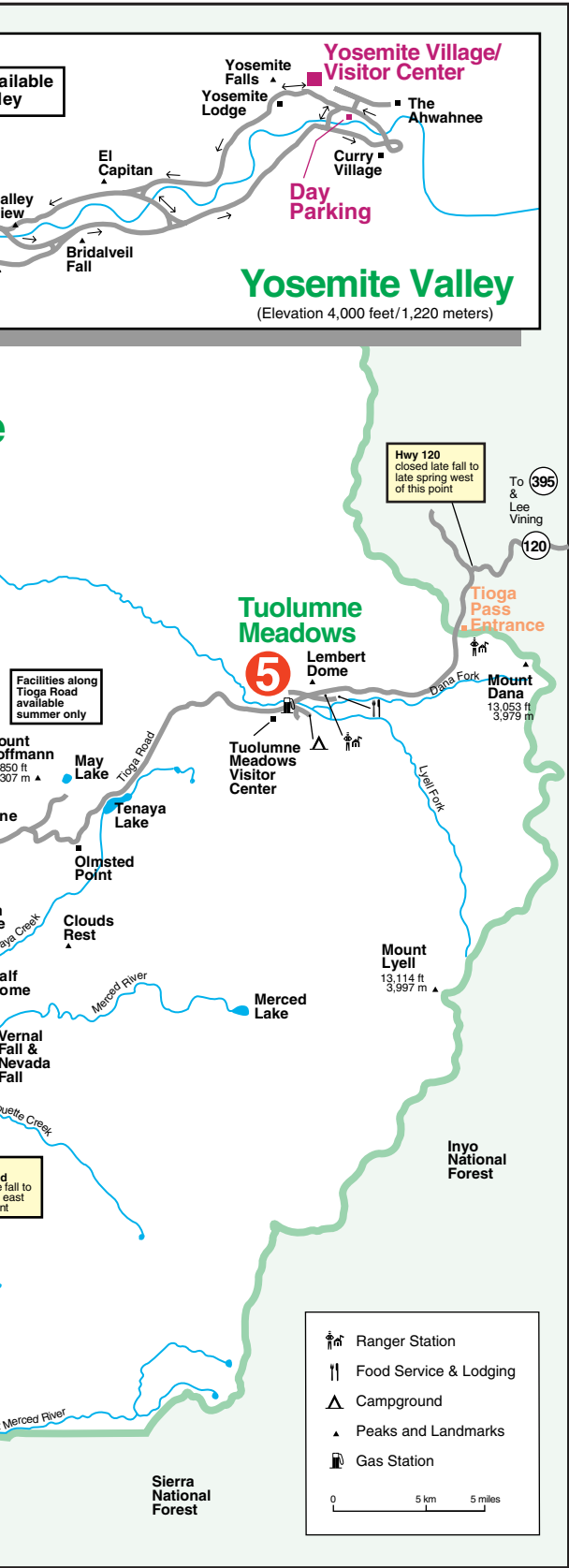
Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

### TUOLUMNE MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

Closed in winter and spring; generally open summer through fall.



## Yosemite National Park



## VISITOR ACTIVITIES

[www.nps.gov/yose/trip/activities](http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/activities)

**Programs and Exhibits** Naturalist-guided walks and programs as well as self-guided walks are available. Cultural history demonstrations of basket-weaving, beadwork, or traditional games are offered at the Indian Cultural Exhibit in Yosemite Valley. Other exhibits are in the Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Museum, Nature Center at Happy Isles (summer), eConte Memorial Lodge (summer), Wilderness Center, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows (summer), and Glacier Point (summer). Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed in *Yosemite Today*.

**Tours** For a relaxing and informative experience, take a sightseeing tour on a bus or open-air tram (weather permitting). These tours, narrated by informed guides, operate daily to most points of interest in the park, including Yosemite Valley (year-round), Tuolumne Meadows (summer), Glacier Point, Wawona, and the Mariposa Grove of Giant sequoias (spring through fall). Two-hour moonlight tours show Yosemite Valley in a different light during summer months (on nights around a full moon). In winter, tours are conducted on heated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made at the best-known scenic locations in

Yosemite Valley. There is a fee for all sightseeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk. Information is also available online at [www.yosemiteparktours.com](http://www.yosemiteparktours.com).

**Skiing and Snowshoeing** In winter, Yosemite offers downhill skiing and snowboarding at Badger Pass in addition to three main areas for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing: Badger Pass, Crane Flat, and the Mariposa Grove. These areas all have marked winter trails. Badger Pass offers approximately 10 miles (16 km) of groomed track at no charge. Maps of marked ski and snowshoe trails are available at park visitor centers or through the Yosemite Association (209/379-2648 or [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org)). For cross-country and downhill ski school information and snow conditions, call 209/372-1000. For Ostrander Ski Hut reservations call 209/372-0740 on or after December 2, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## 4 CRANE FLAT

Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East), and walk one mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. In winter, snowshoes or cross-country skis may be needed. For activities and area information, see *Yosemite Today*.

Take a 4-mile round-trip hike or ski into the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias, located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat or 4.5 miles south of the Big Oak Flat entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trailhead is marked by a post labeled B-10 and a road sign.

## 5 TIOGA ROAD AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

The Tioga Road is generally open from late May or early June through late October or early November and offers a 39-mile scenic drive through forests and past meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 feet at Crane Flat to 9,900 feet at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station. There are many scenic and recreational opportunities in these areas. Check visitor centers and park bulletin boards for updated information on available services and activities. From late fall through late spring, this area is only accessible by cross-country skis or snowshoes. For activities, see *Yosemite Today*.

## 6 HETCH HETCHY

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many less-used wilderness trails. Towering cliffs and high waterfalls are easily seen from the walkway on top of O'Shaughnessy Dam. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the road due to its narrowness. The Hetch Hetchy Road may be open limited hours; call 209/372-0200 for information.

**Ice Skating** The Curry Village Ice Skating Rink is open from mid-November through early March, conditions permitting. Rental skates are available. For more information, call 209/372-8341.

**Bicycling** More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogging strollers, and bicycle child trailers are available at Yosemite Lodge (spring through late fall, weather permitting) and Curry Village (summer through late fall). Check with rental agent for restrictions on rental bike use.

### Bike Rules — For your safety and to protect Yosemite National Park, please follow these rules:

- California law mandates bicyclists under 18 years of age wear helmets.
- Bikes are allowed only on paved bikeways and park roads (unless the road is closed to bicycle use).
- Bikes are not allowed off-road or on pedestrian and hiking trails.
- Bicyclists must obey all posted traffic signs and travel with the flow of traffic when on roads used by automobiles.

**Trail Rides** Weather and trail conditions permitting, 2-hour, half-day, and full-day rides depart from stables in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona, spring through fall. Call 209/372-8348 for information.

**Hiking & Backpacking** Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails parkwide. For updated trail information, visit the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows (spring through fall); in winter, check at the Valley Visitor Center, or call 209/372-0200. Wilderness permits are required for overnight wilderness users. For wilderness permit information and reservations, call 209/372-0740 or go to [www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness](http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness). For some ideas on Valley day hiking, as well as information about wilderness travel, see page 6.

**Rock Climbing Classes** The Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offers beginner through advanced classes in Yosemite Valley spring through fall, and in Tuolumne Meadows in late spring through summer. Call 209/372-8344 for information.



Upper Yosemite Fall by artist Chris Jorgensen, who painted in Yosemite from 1899–1916. In the foreground are *chuckas*, or granaries used by the Ahwahneechee to store acorns.

## Get More Info...

■ **Recorded General Park Information** including: Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-0200

■ **Western U.S. National Parks** 415/556-0560

■ **On the Web**

Yosemite National Park  
[www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

Yosemite Concession Services  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

Camping Reservations  
[reservations.nps.gov](http://reservations.nps.gov)

Regional Information  
[www.yosemite.com](http://www.yosemite.com)

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)  
[www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com)

Yosemite Association  
[yosemite.org](http://yosemite.org)

Yosemite Fund  
[www.yosemitefund.org](http://www.yosemitefund.org)

Yosemite Institute  
[www.yni.org/yi](http://www.yni.org/yi)

The Ansel Adams Gallery  
[www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

## RESERVATIONS

■ **Lodging Reservations** 559/252-4848  
TDD 559/255-8345

■ **Campground Reservations** (callers from U.S. and Canada) 800/436-7275  
TDD 888/530-9796

■ **Campground Reservations** (International callers only) 301/722-1257

## AVERAGE PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN YOSEMITE VALLEY (4,000 FT/1,220 M)\*

MONTH	PRECIPITATION (inches/cm)	MAXIMUM (F°/C°)	MINIMUM (F°/C°)
January	6.2/15.7	49/9	26/-3
February	6.1/15.5	55/13	28/-2
March	5.2/13.2	59/15	31/-0.5
April	3.0/7.6	65/18	35/2
May	1.3/3.3	73/23	42/5.5
June	0.7/1.8	82/28	48/9
July	0.4/1.0	90/32	54/12
August	0.3/0.8	90/32	53/11.5
September	0.9/2.3	87/30.5	47/8
October	2.1/5.3	74/23	39/4
November	5.5/14	58/14	31/-0.5
December	5.6/14.2	48/9	26/-3

**Annual** 37.3/94.7

\*For temperatures at 8,000 feet (2,440 m), subtract 10-20 degrees.







EXPERIENCE THE WILDERNESS IN THE WINTER & SPRING . . . SAFELY

Protect Yosemite’s Wilderness

Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.



Yosemite is a natural preserve. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite’s wilderness trails.



Use gas stoves for cooking rather than wood fires.



Camp in an existing campsite or on a durable surface, such as snow or decomposed granite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be 4 miles from developed areas of the park and at least 1 mile from any open road before camping.



To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.



Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and 8 people for off-trail travel.



See page 2 for food storage regulations and for water quality information.

A trip to Yosemite’s wilderness during the winter or spring can be extremely rewarding. But there are challenges and risks to experiencing these areas of the park when the forces of nature are at their most extreme. Sudden changes in weather, low temperatures, high winds, and dangerous travel conditions can occur without warning. With proper planning and good judgment, the risks can be minimized, allowing you to see remote portions of the park in ways that few people do.

PLANNING AND SAFETY

If you plan to visit the Yosemite Wilderness, you should be competent in winter wilderness travel including use of skis or snowshoes, route finding, map and compass, and winter survival skills. Also, follow these general precautions:

- Be honest about your abilities. Make plans that accommodate the weakest member

of your group. Be flexible; change your plans as conditions warrant. Avoid traveling alone.

- Check the weather before you come and then be prepared for sudden and unexpected changes.
- Leave a detailed itinerary with a trusted friend or family member. Include your planned start and end dates and locations as well as any known hazards. Be clear as to at what point a search should be initiated.
- Carry emergency equipment: First aid kit, fire starter, water, extra food, a signal mirror and whistle, emergency shelter, and warm clothing.
- Traveling in low temperatures and at higher altitudes can drain energy quickly. Being cold, wet, and tired can result in hypothermia, a potentially fatal condition.

- Be cautious traveling along or crossing streams and rivers. Be aware of fluctuating water levels resulting in collapsing snow bridges and weak ice.
- Scout out river crossing locations. Never cross right above waterfalls or rapids. Consider what you will do if you fall. Release your waist strap so you can shed your pack quickly.
- When hiking up the Valley walls, stay on existing trails. Avoid scrambling off trail along the steep faces. Falls are common on the slippery rocks and there is an increased hazard of being hit by falling rock and ice.
- If it looks scary or dangerous it probably is.

WILDERNESS PERMITS

Free wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite’s wilderness. They are not required for day hikes. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day prior to, the beginning of your trip. In winter, permits are issued at Badger Pass and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Stations, or by self registration at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station, and the Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio.

For wilderness trip planning information and trail conditions, stop by the Valley Visitor Center, call 209/372-0200 for recorded information, or visit online at [www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness](http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness). To make reservations for summer wilderness permits, call 209/372-0740 no sooner than 24 weeks before your planned date of departure.

For wilderness information, call 209/372-0200 or go to [www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness](http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness)



Yosemite Creek before it plunges over the brink of Upper Yosemite Fall.

SELF-GUIDING TRAILS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

The **Miwok in Yosemite** is a short loop that winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum. ♿

A **Changing Yosemite** is a 1-mile trail that begins in front of the Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. It winds through Cook’s Meadow and explores the changes that have led to the Yosemite we experience today. ♿

**Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail** is a short loop adjacent to Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek. Exhibits focus on the rich natural history of the area, American Indian use, and history of this popular destination. To reach the start of the trail, walk 1 mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The self-guiding trail begins here. ♿

The **Legacy of Curry Village** is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.

YOSEMITE VALLEY DAY HIKES

DESTINATION / TRAIL	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY/ ELEVATION GAIN	APPROXIMATE HIKING TIME	NOTES
BRIDALVEIL FALL	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)	Easy	20 minutes round trip	Paved trail; last 50' may be steep for visitors with mobility impairments
MIRROR LAKE (a seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round trip (3.2 km)	Easy	1 hour round trip	♿ Vehicle access available via road with placard
LOWER YOSEMITE FALL	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)	Easy	20 minutes round trip	Paved trail; last 50' are significantly sloped
UPPER YOSEMITE FALL TRAIL COLUMBIA ROCK	Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round trip (3.2 km)	Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain	2 to 3 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter
TOP OF YOSEMITE FALL	Same as above	7.2 miles round trip (11.6 km)	Very Strenuous 2,700' (810 m) elevation gain	6 to 8 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter
MIST TRAIL OR JOHN MUIR TRAIL					
VERNAL FALL FOOTBRIDGE	Happy Isles/Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round trip (2.0 km)	Moderate 400' (120 m) elevation gain	1 to 2 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center
TOP OF VERNAL FALL	Same as above	3 miles round trip (4.8 km)	Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain	2 to 4 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available
TOP OF NEVADA FALL	Same as above	7 miles round trip (11.3 km)	Strenuous 1,900' (570 m) elevation gain	5 to 6 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available
TOP OF HALF DOME	Same as above	17 miles round trip (27.4 km)	Extremely Strenuous 4,800' (1,463 m) elevation gain	10 to 12 hours round trip	Cables up from June to early October; otherwise cable route is inaccessible
GLACIER POINT FOUR MILE TRAIL	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one way (7.6 km)	Very strenuous 3,200' (960 m) elevation gain	3 to 4 hours one way	Check conditions at Visitor Center; closed in winter and early spring
VALLEY FLOOR LOOP	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop (20.8 km) 6.5 miles half loop (10.4 km)	Moderate	5 to 7 hours full loop 2.5 to 3.5 hours half loop	Get full description from Visitor Center

# GENERAL INFORMATION



See *Yosemite Today* for facilities information and hours of operation.

## LOST AND FOUND

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call Yosemite Concession Services at 209/372-4357, or write YCS Lost & Found, P.O. Box 578, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. You can also inquire online at [www.yosemitepark.com/html/lostandfound.htm](http://www.yosemitepark.com/html/lostandfound.htm)

For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call the National Park Service at 209/379-1001, or write to NPS Warehouse, 5083 Foresta Road, B-759, El Portal, CA 95318. You can also inquire by email to [YOSE\\_Web\\_Manager@nps.gov](mailto:YOSE_Web_Manager@nps.gov)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Bear Canister Rental

Available year-round for \$5 per trip at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Valley Sport Shop, Curry Village Mountain Shop, Crane Flat Store, and Wawona Store; available seasonally at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Wawona Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Mountaineering School and Sport Shop, Tuolumne Meadows Store, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation. Canisters can be rented or returned at any rental location in the park.

### Babysitting

Limited babysitting available for registered guests at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee. Call front desk or concierge for additional information.

### Fishing

Fishing season along the Merced River is from the last Saturday in April through November 15. Special regulations apply within Yosemite National Park. Visit the park’s web site at [www.nps.gov/yose/trip/fishing.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/fishing.htm) or ask at any visitor center. State regulations can be found online at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

### Kennel

(Spring through fall, weather permitting)

Located at the stable in Yosemite Valley. Dogs must be gentle, over 10 pounds, with proof of shots and license required. 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 209/372-8348

### Employment Opportunities

Would you like to be part of Yosemite’s future? Employment opportunities exist at Yosemite National Park with the National Park Service, Volunteers in Parks, and Yosemite Concession Services Corporation.

#### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

For online vacancy information: [www.nps.gov/yose/jobs](http://www.nps.gov/yose/jobs)

Employment hotline:

209/372-0200-5-1-1 (for permanent positions)

209/372-0200-5-1-2 (for seasonal or temporary positions)

To contact the Yosemite National Park Human Resource Office, call 209/379-1805 or write: Yosemite National Park, Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318

#### VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

Individuals and groups interested in community service projects in Yosemite can call the Volunteer Program Manager at 209/379-1850. Free camping is provided and entrance fees are waived during your work project. [www.nps.gov/yose/support/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/support/volunteer.htm)

#### YOSEMITE CONCESSION SERVICES

Contact Yosemite Concession Services Corporation at the General Offices in Yosemite Village or call 209/372-1236. [www.yosemitepark.com/jobs.html](http://www.yosemitepark.com/jobs.html)

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Nonprofit organization offers fun, educational outdoor courses in photography, writing, arts, natural history, hiking, and backpacking. P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2321 [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars)

### YOSEMITE INSTITUTE

Nonprofit environmental education organization. Week-long, field-based sessions for school groups, teachers, and other groups. P.O. Box 487, Yosemite, CA 95389. 209/379-9511 [www.yni.org/yi](http://www.yni.org/yi)

### NPS EDUCATION BRANCH

Wawona Ranger Station, P.O. Box 2027, Wawona, CA 95389. 209/375-9505. For entrance waivers for educational groups, call 209/372-0206 [www.nps.gov/yose/learn](http://www.nps.gov/yose/learn)

## ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

An accessibility brochure is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers. Information will also be available online by mid-December at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

Wheelchair rental is available at the Yosemite Medical Clinic, 209/372-4637, and the Yosemite Lodge bike rental stand, 209/372-1208. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.

The Golden Access Passport waives entrance fees for blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Inquire at entrance stations or visitor centers in the park.



A temporary access placard is available at park visitor centers. Displayed on the windshield, it allows driving on paved roads normally closed to vehicle traffic.



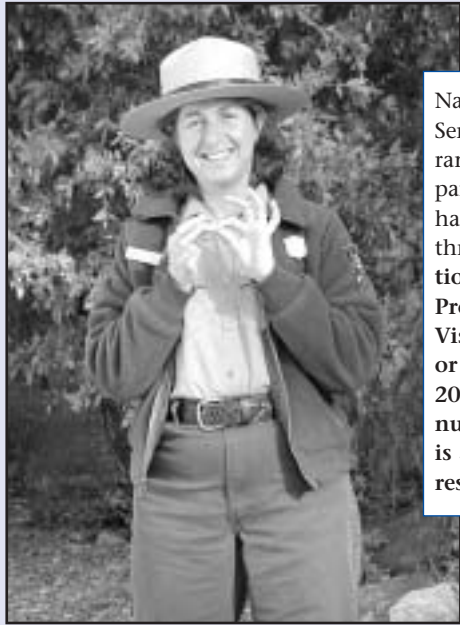
Designated parking spaces are marked throughout the park with the international access symbol. Those closest to the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center are located on Village Drive, between the Yosemite Pioneer Cemetery and the Yosemite Museum.



Assisted listening devices and closed captioning are available for the film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, shown daily in The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center’s West Auditorium Theater. Assisted listening devices may also be available for some National Park Service interpretive programs. Check at the Valley Visitor Center.



TDD phones are available for visitor use at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and for guests at Curry Village, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee. TDD pay phones are also available outside the Curry Village registration area, inside the Yosemite Lodge lobby, and at The Ahwahnee in the mezzanine area.



Nanette Oswald, Yosemite’s Deaf Services Coordinator, interprets ranger-led activities and provides park information for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors in spring through fall. **For more information about the Deaf Services Program, come to the Valley Visitor Center information desk, or call 209/372-4726 (TDD) or 209/372-0642 (voice). The TDD number for lodging reservations is 559/255-8345; for camping reservations, call 888/530-9796.**

NPS Photo

## HELP YOUR PARK



**YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 230  
El Portal, CA 95318  
209/379-2646  
[www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org)



**THE YOSEMITE FUND**

P.O. Box 637  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
415/434-1782  
[www.yosemitefund.org](http://www.yosemitefund.org)

Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved with the park is encouraged to become a member of the Yosemite Association. The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of Yosemite National Park through a program of visitor services, publications, and membership activities. Since 1923, the Association has provided important financial support to the National Park Service, and has made possible the funding of many projects and purchases otherwise not affordable through normal government appropriations.

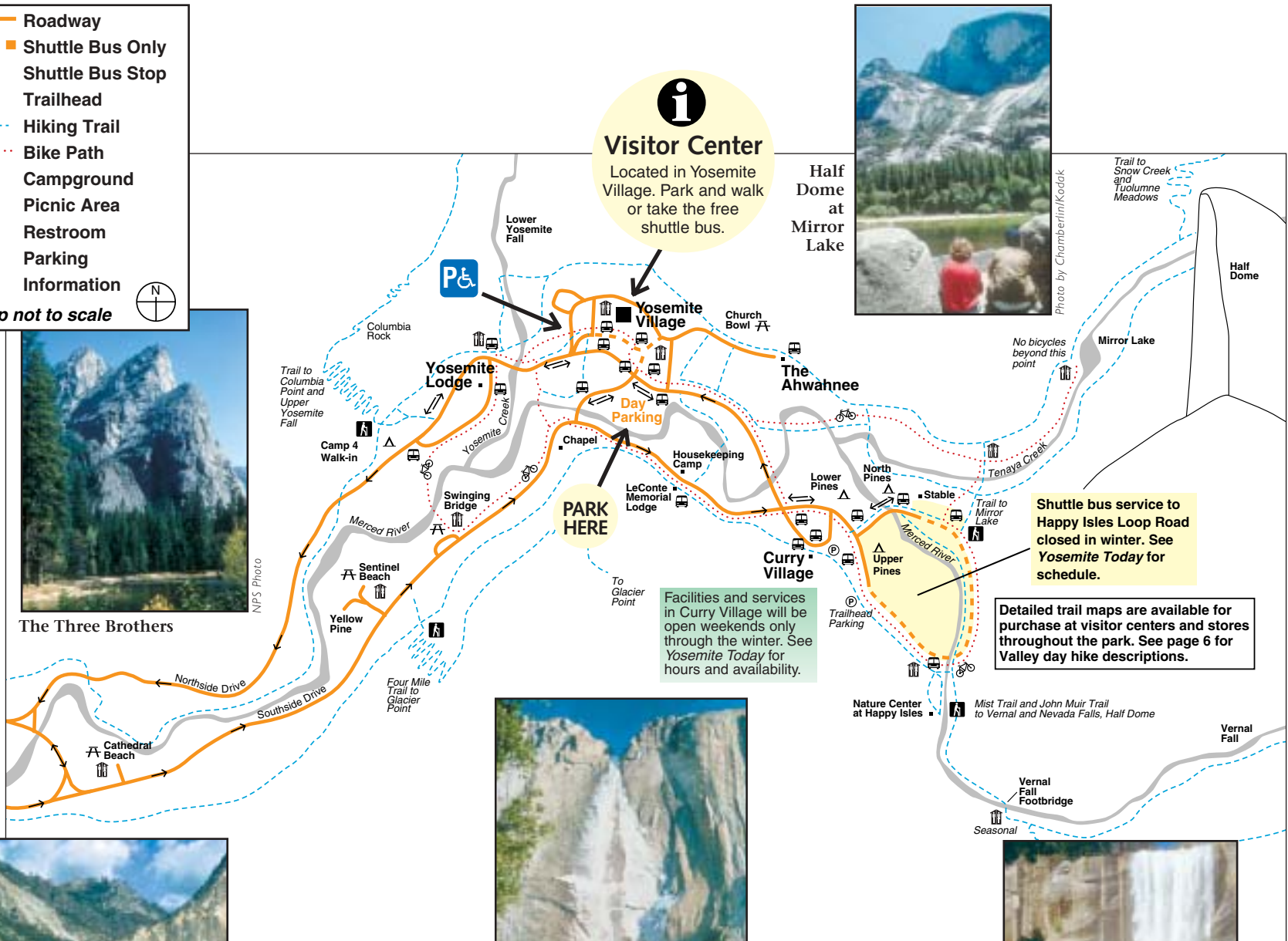
Memberships of \$30 or more entitle you to receive a free “thank you” gift along with other benefits, including discounts on Yosemite Association and The Ansel Adams Gallery merchandise, lodging discounts, a quarterly journal, and much more. To join, inquire at park visitor centers or contact the Yosemite Association (see above).

The Yosemite Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Yosemite—one of the most cherished parks in the world. Thanks to gifts from dedicated “Friends of Yosemite,” the Fund has distributed over \$19 million for more than 150 projects that would otherwise not be possible. The Yosemite Fund has helped rehabilitate meadows, rebuild trails, and has installed over 2,000 bear-proof food storage lockers throughout the park.

You can help by becoming a Friend of Yosemite through a donation to the Fund. All donors of \$25 or more receive a discount on Yosemite accommodations, access to a special park accommodation reservations hotline, the Fund’s full-color biannual magazine, and acknowledgement at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center.



Roadway  
 Shuttle Bus Only  
 Shuttle Bus Stop  
 Trailhead  
 Hiking Trail  
 Bike Path  
 Campground  
 Picnic Area  
 Restroom  
 Parking  
 Information  
**Map not to scale**



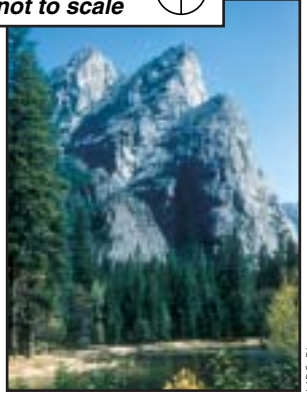
**Visitor Center**  
Located in Yosemite Village. Park and walk or take the free shuttle bus.

Half Dome at Mirror Lake



Trail to Snow Creek and Tuolumne Meadows

Half Dome



The Three Brothers

**PARK HERE**

Facilities and services in Curry Village will be open weekends only through the winter. See *Yosemite Today* for hours and availability.

Shuttle bus service to Happy Isles Loop Road closed in winter. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule.

Detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See page 6 for Valley day hike descriptions.



Bridalveil Fall



Yosemite Falls with ice cone



Vernal Fall